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available for filling up the post. I may also add for the information of hon. Members that the term of another officer just below this officer, who is a Malayali, is also extended like this for more than a year.

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Sir, I did not put my previous question because the Officer was a Malayalee or a Tamilian. I merely wanted to know the principle followed in this matter. So, I feel that the Hon. Minister's observation in this regard is not in good taste. 9–30 a.m.

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I do not know about tastes. I simply wanted to point out that there was no discrimination in the matter between one officer and another.

SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM : Sir, I am not concerned whether the Officer was a North Indian or South Indian or whether he was a Tamilian or a Malayalee. I am only concerned with the fact that he is a human-being. To my first question, the Hon. Minister replied that there was dearth of qualified persons in the department. Later on, he said that it is not merely educational qualification but also experience has to be taken into consideration. My information is that there are officers who have been working in the department, who have sufficient experience and good qualifications also. May I know why their cases should not be considered?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Barring this Chief Conservator, there are Conservators working under him. The next seniormost Conservator is one I have referred to in my previous answer. He also attains superannuation. Below them, there are Conservators who have not even two years' service.

Foreign markets for hides and skins

* 89 *Q.*—SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state whether the Government have made any proposal to the Union Government for finding foreign markets for the export of hides and skins?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : No, Sir, as the Union Government are themselves taking steps for the promotion of export.

Export of rice to Ceylon

* 90 *Q.*—SRI N. K. PALANISAMY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is any proposal to export rice to Ceylon from this State; and

(*b*) if so, the quantity and the rate of the same?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (*a*) No, Sir.

(*b*) Does not arise.

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SRI N. K. PALANISAMY: May I know whether the Central Government have requested this Government to send some consignment of rice to Ceylon some time back and if so, whether it has been dropped?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: I have no information. But, I have already stated that the Government of India have also completely stopped export of rice in view of the rising prices.

Co-operative Milk Supply Unions in the City

* 91 Q.—SRI K. VINAYAKAM (on behalf of Sri A. Ratnam): Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether the activities of Co-operative Milk Supply Unions in the City and in the State are subject to periodical supervision by Government Officers; and

(b) whether the loans advanced to them are being recovered?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY: (a) & (b) Yes, Sir.

Foreign studies of a Junior Honorary Surgeon at Government cost

* 92 Q.—SRI P. RANGASWAMI REDDIAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether a Junior Honorary Surgeon of the General Hospital, Madras, was sent abroad in the year 1955 at Government cost; and

(b) if so, for what purpose?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY: (a) No Honorary Surgeon attached to the Government General Hospital, Madras, was sent abroad in 1955 for training at Government cost.

(b) Does not arise.

SRI P. RANGASWAMI REDDIAR: May I know whether any Surgeon or person with M.B., B.S., Degree qualification was sent abroad in 1955 and if so the total financial commitment to our State Government?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY: Sir, the question relates to Honorary Medical Officers and I have already stated that no such Honorary Medical Officers have been sent abroad.

SRI S. DAIVASIGAMONEY: May I know whether Junior Honorary Surgeons from the Stanley Hospital have been sent abroad for further studies?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY: The question relating to Honorary Officers has already been answered.